FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC ADDS SCOTTSBLUFF TO LIST OF SITES FOR WIRELESS TELEPHONE MEETINGS

LINCOLN – A series of public meetings on the feasibility of regulating wireless telecommunications in Nebraska now includes the Nebraska Panhandle.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission added a meeting in Scottsbluff for September 13 to seven other meetings it had previously scheduled in Omaha, Lincoln, North Platte, McCook, Fremont, Grand Island, and Norfolk. The Scottsbluff meeting will be at 6 p.m. (MDT) in the Blue Stem Room of the Panhandle Learning Center at 4502 Avenue I.

Legislative Resolutions LR 264 and LR 309 directed the Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee to conduct an interim study on wireless regulation. LR 309 calls for input from the Public Service Commission. The Commission will hold a series of public meetings throughout the state. Issues to be addressed during these public meetings will include billing practices of wireless carriers; advertising, including special promotions; service contracts and product information; service quality; and the impact of number portability by wireless carriers on the need for regulation.

Commission Chairman Jerry Vap said, "These meetings are for fact-finding in an effort to address concerns that have been apparent from customer complaints on billing, area coverage, terms of service, and an understanding of what is included in service contracts. We are working as a sounding board and hope the information might be helpful to the Legislature."

"The meetings have been scheduled in several parts of the state to encourage the public to participate," Commission Chairman Jerry Vap of McCook said. In addition to the eight meetings, the Commission also will accept written comments on wireless issues with a deadline of August 31.